

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 5 through 8 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend Claim 1 as follows. All pending claims, including those that are not amended herein and those that have been withdrawn from consideration, are set forth for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Currently Amended) A recording medium for ink-jet recording with an ink containing a pigment, provided with an ink-receiving layer on at least one surface of a substrate, wherein said ink-receiving layer comprises a porous layer comprising thermoplastic resin particles that have been mutually fused with no particle structure left and pigment particles, wherein the ink-receiving layer and the substrate are fused, and the ink receiving layer has gaps formed by the fusion of the thermoplastic resin particles, **and**

21 wherein the amount of the thermoplastic resin in the ink-receiving layer is 40% or less of that of the pigment in the ink-receiving layer, and

wherein said substrate is composed of at least one selected from the group consisting of a polyvinyl chloride resin, polystyrene resin, polycarbonate, terephthalic acid-ethylene glycol-cyclohexane dimethanol copolymer.

2. (Original) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein a porous outermost layer comprising thermoplastic resin particles is provided on the ink-receiving layer.

3. (Original) The recording medium according to claim 2, wherein said substrate is card-shaped.

4. (Original) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said pigment particles are composed of alumina hydrate.

5. (Cancelled) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said substrate is composed of a polyvinyl chloride resin.

6. (Cancelled) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said substrate is composed of a polystyrene resin.

7. (Cancelled) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said substrate is composed of a polycarbonate.

8. (Cancelled) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the substrate is composed of a terephthalic acid-ethylene glycol-cyclohexane dimethanol copolymer.

9. (Withdrawn) An image forming process comprising the step of forming an image by ejecting an ink by an ink-jet recording method onto the recording medium according to claim 1.

10. (Withdrawn) An image forming process comprising the steps of:
forming an image by discharging ink by an ink-jet recording method onto the
recording medium according to claim 2, and
rendering said outermost layer transparent.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Withdrawn) A process for the preparation of a recording medium
comprising the steps of:
applying to a substrate a coating liquid comprising pigment particles and
thermoplastic resin particles;
forming an ink-receiving layer by fusing and adhering the thermoplastic resin
with heat under pressure; and
fusing the thermoplastic resin particles and the substrate.

13. (Withdrawn) The process for the preparation of a recording medium
according to claim 12 comprising further the step of:
forming an outermost layer, after the ink-receiving layer has been provided.
